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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5799  
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RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
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RUYNAA/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6149  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 8481  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 3556  
RUEHKS0/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 6662  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9958  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0688  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2999  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 7351  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 6972  
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - IRAN AND INTER-KOREAN RELATIONS

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Friday morning's Yomiuri and Mainichi gave top play to the results of their respective latest nationwide opinion surveys both projecting a landslide DPJ victory in Sunday's general election.

¶2. "Policy Turnaround by Ayatollah Khamenei" On Wednesday's remarks by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei that the anti-government demonstrations staged by reformists following the presidential election in June were not launched at the instruction of foreign forces such as the U.S. and Britain, the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri wrote from Tehran (8/28): "Iran's conservatives justified their crackdown on reformists based on the judgment that they were anti-revolutionary 'agents for the U.S. and Britain.' The change in this view reflects Khamenei's position of seeking a reasonable settlement. Khamenei has apparently made a policy turnabout in anticipation of growing criticism over the trials of reformists. One view holds that Khamenei is trying to distance himself from the ultra conservatives led by President Ahmadinejad. "

¶3. "Inter-Korean Dialogue Possible only After Progress on Nuclear Front" On North Korea's recent 'dialogue offensive,' the liberal Asahi editorialized (8/28): "By drawing South Korea into dialogue, the DPRK hopes to use [inter-Korean rapprochement] to realize talks with the U.S. However, it is not acceptable for North Korea to try to change the situation without taking any steps toward surrendering its nuclear programs.... The basic situation will not change unless North Korea returns to the Six-Party Talks and makes clear its position of fulfilling past [Six-Party] agreements. North Korea should realize this."

ROOS